



Date: March 6, 2006
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report For Week Ending March 3, 2006

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending March 3, 2006 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Community Development

The City of Long Beach launched its Jobs and Business Strategy, a new and sweeping economic development plan that focuses City Hall efforts on the long-term economic health of the city and its residents.

The Jobs and Business Strategy is a five-year plan that details the challenges, strengths and potential of the City, then charts a course that is comprehensive in its scope. This includes the purposeful use of City resources and regulatory powers, coupled with the resources and abilities of community partners and residents to: build upon the city's existing economic strengths; encourage private sector investment; effectively prepare young people for career opportunities; improve the City's fiscal health so that it can better respond to changing needs and issues; and improve the quality of life for residents. The plan is the result of more than 14 months of intense effort and includes the input of more than 800 Long Beach community leaders, business leaders, and residents.

Planning and Building

On February 16, the Long Beach Planning Commission considered the state of Condominium Conversions in the City. Staff prepared a report identifying the 792 units that had been approved since 2000 and mapped the location of each conversion. At the present, most of the new condominiums are owner-occupied fulfilling the home-ownership program goal as established in the City's Housing Element. Many stakeholders attended the Planning Commission meeting and several commented on the excellent customer service staff provided during the conversion process.

City Manager

On Tuesday, February 28, City communication personnel participated in an editorial meeting at the Press Telegram and observed how articles and photos are selected for the front page. They also met news editors, and learned about the news selection process and the status of the newspaper industry.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

City Manager

The Arts Council for Long Beach presents Smithsonian Week, *On the Move*, from **March 5 – March 11**. The annual weeklong celebration features the wonders of three scholars' expertise in film, dance and car culture in a unique series of presentations and events in Long Beach. For more information, please visit www.smithsonianweek.com.

Library Services

Long Beach Reads One Book – March 12 – March 18, 2006

On **March 12**, Book Week 2006 kicks off with *My California: Journeys by Great Writers* contributor and poet Chryss Yost at the Main Library, 101 Pacific Avenue, from noon until 4:00 p.m. The kick-off features exhibits that bring to life some of the essays. Activities include the showing of the classic surfing film *Five Summer Stories*, a fly-fishing demonstration, teen poetry open mike, and readings from the book. A sampling of the interactive and educational exhibitors include the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Development and Fire; California State University, Long Beach; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; Caltrans; and The Port of Long Beach. For more information, visit www.lbplfoundation.org.

Main Library Exhibits

Courage and Resiliency: Cambodian-American Women in America

Compiled by the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, the remarkable life histories of Cambodian-American women are revealed through photographs and their own words. The free opening program on **March 4** from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. (auditorium lobby), will feature speakers Svang Tor, renowned expert on Cambodian Genocide, and photographer Marcus Haleve.

Lobby gallery, Children's gallery, Lower Level Gallery, **March 4 - April 29**.

Cesar Chavez Memorabilia Display

Danny Flores, Collector.

Display area, **March 1 - March 31**.

Health and Human Services

The Healthy Homes Demonstration Project will be presenting *Unlock Your Door to a Healthier Home* workshops through **April 10**. Community members learn how to prevent or reduce the risk of asthma, allergies and other respiratory diseases by having a healthier home environment. For more information, contact Judeth Luong, MPH, Health Homes Program Coordinator, at 570-4104.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Health and Human Services

The Healthy Active Long Beach Program provided outreach and nutritional education at Colin Powell Academy for Success Winners Reaching Amazing Potential (WRAP) program, The Children's Clinic, and Fairfield YMCA in North Long Beach on February 21, 23 and 24.

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

On February 28, staff participated in a community dialogue, *Latinas and Heart Disease: What You Know and What You Can Do*, which provided information on improving the health of Latino women through nutrition and physical activity.

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,374 emergency calls for service; 134 calls for fires, of which 19 involved structures; and 714 emergency medical calls, of which 507 required paramedics.

Police

Police officers responded to 626 priority one; 1, 453 priority two; and 1, 249 priority three calls for service, for a total of 3, 328 for the reporting period.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The concrete slab is complete for the new locker rooms for the pool in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The steel beams for the locker room structure are complete and wood framing is in progress.

Sod has been installed and all turf areas are complete at Grace Park. All the shrub beds have been layered with wood mulch.

Tree planting is in progress on the west and north slopes at Davenport Park on 55th Way near Paramount Blvd.

Concrete flatwork is complete and a new ADA accessible picnic table has been installed at Birdcage Park.

Rough plumbing has been installed in the ADA accessible restrooms on both the north and south sides of the Colorado Lagoon.

Accessibility improvements at the Long Beach Municipal Cemetery, including new handrails, guardrails, and indicator strips on steps, are scheduled to begin next week.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On February 25, Drake Park staff, in collaboration with the Community Partners Council, conducted a clean-up of Drake Park, with over 40 community residents participating. Participants also attended a workshop on the importance of keeping parks clean and free of litter. The Community Partners Council secured a grant for four Drake Park clean-ups over the next few months.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

Belmont Plaza Pool hosted the Girl's California Interscholastic Federation, Southern Section Water Polo Championships on February 27 and 28, with approximately 2,800 athletes and spectators attending.

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SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

CBS Productions, Inc., with a cast and crew of 100, filmed a TV show *CSI Miami* at various locations from February 28 to March 2.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Gas & Oil, Gas Services Bureau

From February 19 through February 25, staff completed a total of 2,487 service calls. This total included 693 and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 575 Turn Offs. During this period, 1,030 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 189 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 498 emergency phone calls that resulted in 113 emergency orders being sent out.

Construction Report

Public Works, Street Improvements

Contact: 570.5160

Anaheim Street

10th St.

Estimated Completion:

Obispo to Ximeno

Orange Ave. to Cherry Ave.

March 2006

Long Beach Water, Alley Service Lateral Conversion

Contact: 570. 2326

Cedar Ave.

Chestnut Ave.

Pasadena Ave.

Linden Ave.

Estimated Completion:

E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

E. Burnett St. to Hill St.

E. Burnett St. to Pacific Electric Railroad

E. Burnett St. to 25th Way

April 2006

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation

Orange Ave.

Estimated completion:

Between Lewis and Cherry Ave.

April 24, 2006

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Regulator Station Rebuild

Contact: 570.2060

Colorado St. and Nieto Ave.

Estimated Completion:

April 7, 2006

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation

Contact 570.2060

Clair Del Ave.

Estimated completion:

East of Cherry Ave. and South of Del Amo Blvd.

May 15, 2006

East of Cherry Ave. and South of Del Amo Blvd.

Estimated completion:

May 15, 2006

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Construction Report (continued)

Public Works, Street Improvements

Contact: 570.5160

Atlantic Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to a point North of 68th St.

Cherry Ave. North of Artesia Blvd. to 70th St.

Artesia Blvd. East of Obispo Ave. to Downey Ave.

Change Estimated Completion: March 2006

Public Works, Street Improvement

Contact: 570-5160

Cherry Ave. Spring St. to Bixby Rd.

Estimated completion: May 2006

Long Beach Gas and Oil, Gas Pipe Installation

Alleys west of Oregon and Patterson

Estimated completion: March 27, 2006

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
City Manager Department Heads
Tom Modica, Manager of Government Affairs
Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager